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UNIFICATION OF HOSPITALS AND POLYCLINICS

Sverdlovsk -- One year ago, when the unification program began, only the UralMashZavod section had a sufficiently large medical service to warrant unification. The medical services in the other seven sections were so small and scattered that it was necessary to reorganize the medical services. The municipal public health department has divided the unification into "Organic" and "Nonorganic." There are only six of these organic unifications, of which the unification of the medicosanitation sections of the UralMash Factory in Ordzhonikidze Rayon is the best. Here, all the departments are sectionalized. The doctors and physicians are assigned to four brigades, each of which is administered by a senior hospital surgeon. Each doctor is assigned six to eight beds. Therapists assigned to the Public Health Stations also have duty in the diagnostic dispensary.

Kuybyshev Rayon also has one of these organic unifications. The Polyclinic has united with a hospital and has accommodations for 24 patients. However, this is a region in which industry is growing by leaps and bounds and larger accommodations will soon be needed. The need for more hospital bed facilities has prompted the authorities at Nizhne-Isetsk to start construction of a 100-bed hospital.

The unified Eye Hospital and Polyclinic is serving the peoples of the municipality as well as the oblast.

Of a total of 20 municipal hospitals and 26 polyclinics, only six hospitals and polyclinics have united completely. This is only about 20 percent of the total available hospital bed space.

Kirov, Oktyabr, and Stalinsk Rayons have no hospital facilities, and neither rayon councils nor municipal public health departments have made any effort to designate hospitals which might be united with the polyclinics.

The Central Polyclinic, serving Lenin Rayon, Polyclinic No 2 in Otkyabrsk Rayon, and the Polyclinic on Eighth of March Street have united only their therapeutic and surgical departments with the Central Clinical Hospital.

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The unifications of Rayon Polyclinics were haphazard. It also appears that there is a clash between municipal and oblast authorities as to whether or not oblast patients can be hospitalized in municipal hospitals, even though the oblast and municipal doctors are assigned to both jurisdictions indiscriminately.

No solution has yet been found for the unification of medicosanitation sections which have no hospital close by. (I. Trop, Candidate of Medical Science)

Leningrad -- Every effort has been made to complete the unification plan as rapidly as possible, and cooperation between all parties concerned is in evidence. In Vasileostrovskiy, and Sverdlovsk, and Kuybyshev Rayons, councils have aided in locating buildings for the expanded medical facilities offered as a result of this unification program.

At present, in Leningrad, there are 24 somatological hospitals which are united with 25 polyclinics. However, the reorganization is not complete and more than 50 percent of the staff remains in the polyclinics. The executive committee of the Leningrad Municipal Council has urged the unification of eight more polyclinics and has given assurance that it will "find" more beds with which to equip the unified enterprises.

Great importance is attached to the many small medicosanitation units. There are 21 such units in the city of Leningrad, but so far only four of those having hospitals attached were unified. At present, four more medicosanitation units are uniting their polyclinics with hospitals.

At the time the unification plan went into effect, there were 546 medical units in Leningrad. Now, however, the number has reached the prewar figure. Thus, one doctor now has to care for only 2,000-3,000 people. Plans for 1949 call for a great increase in the number of doctors. Proposed conditions obtain at the enterprise formed by the unification of Polyclinic No 31 and the Hospital imeni Erieman, where each doctor has to care for only 1,200-1,300 people.

The Leningrad Municipal Public Health Department's unified polyclinics have received a large complement of highly qualified specialists. At present, Leningrad Polyclinics have 46 professors, 42 docents, and 103 assistants who provide consultation service.

Apportionment of work in polyclinics can be improved. The work load has been somewhat lightened by the unification plan, but it is still comparatively high. For example, the average therapist examines seven patients per hour (in 1947, eight per hour). This makes it impossible for the doctor to make as many house calls as are necessary. (V. Viktorov)

Tashkent -- The local public health department is proceeding slowly with the unification plan, attempting to unify only those medical units located close to one another. Thus, only 30 percent of the polyclinics and less than 50 percent of the hospitals have been unified. The unification has taken place only in areas where there are hospitals, such as in the Central Kirov, Oktyabrsk, and Kuybyshev regions. There has been improvement in medical facilities as a result of the unification plan; in the Lenin region a medical unit has been built around the clinic of an Institute transferred there recently. Preparations are underway in Stalin Rayon for the organization of a large unified medical service. This medical unit will have an antiplague as well as an antibrucellosis department. Plans also call for a neuropsychiatric dispensary. Atabekov, chief of the municipal public health department, has urged the construction of unified medical enterprises for Stalin and Moscow Rayons. The Ministry has considered proposal, but so far has failed to act on it. (D. Sonichev)

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Tbilisi -- The work of the municipal public health department in the unification of hospitals and clinics has resulted in increasing the standard of the medical service available to the people of Tbilisi; the union of the Ninth Polyclinic and the First Municipal Hospital made possible about 1,500 consultations during 1948.

There are many problems that still remain unsolved. No attempt has been made to rectify the disruption of the medical network. The unification of many of the institutions and medical units has been haphazard; for example all the somatological hospitals have been located on the left bank of the Kur River, while the right bank does not even have a general hospital. The Municipal Department of the Public Health Service has failed to unify six of the 17 polyclinics.

The Ninth Polyclinic, which has united with a hospital, has 12 therapists who work only in the hospital while the polyclinic is staffed with only three doctors who are greatly overworked. The opposite is true for the therapeutic clinic of the union formed by the Second Municipal Hospital and a polyclinic. Here, every morning 56 doctors report for duty to care for a grand total of 100 bed patients. Sometimes some 80 students and various assistants accompany the doctors in their morning rounds. The most pressing need now is to unscramble the budgetary problem; so far the budgets for polyclinics and hospitals are kept separately. Conditions in Tbilisi are very poor and the unification plan cannot succeed until these are corrected.
(V. Vol'skiy)

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